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STUDY CIRCLE

FOUNDED
27 JANUARY 1954



St Christopher Double Overprint on Nevis 1d (Barefoot 19) By Michael Medlicott

Doubles, trebles and countless contortions are to be found in the hand-stamped St Christopher revenues (Barefoot 1-19), but this is the first overprint I have seen truly doubled.

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BULLETIN No. 197 JUNE 2003

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

Affiliated to the Association of British Philatelic Societies

Web Site: www.bwisc.org

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- North American Representative: **To be Advised**
- Study Group Leaders: Listed on the Web Site - www.bwisc.org

OBJECTS

- 1 TO promote interest in and the study of the stamps and postal history of the islands that comprise the British West Indies and in addition BERMUDA, BRITISH GUIANA (GUYANA) and BRITISH HONDURAS (BELIZE) and the Postal History and markings of all other Caribbean territories during any period that they were under British administration or control, and those British Post Offices which operated in the Caribbean, and Central or South America.
- 2 TO issue a quarterly BULLETIN containing articles, items of interest and other features.
- 3 TO loan books from the Circle library (home members only). Borrowers bear postage both ways. Lists supplied upon application to Hon. Librarian accompanied by an S.A.E. (9" x 6½") – 2nd Class postage for 150 gm rate required.
- 4 TO publicise 'wants' and furnish opinions on stamp(s) and/or cover(s) for a nominal fee.
- 5 TO encourage, assist or sponsor the authorship and publication of definitive handbooks, monographs or other works of reference appropriate to the aim in para 1 above.

MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTION

MEMBERSHIP - is WORLD WIDE in scope and open to all whether they be new or advanced collectors.

SUBSCRIPTION -The ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION is £10.00 for members residing in the UK or Europe and £14 / \$20 for members who reside elsewhere.

Subscriptions (dues) are payable on 1 January each year and, subject to what is mentioned below, in sterling (by personal cheque or standing ORDER drawn on a UK Bank, a Banker's Draft, International Money Order, Postal Order or local currency notes - no coins will be accepted - e.g. dollars, marks, francs etc.).

Members residing in North America (Canada, USA and the Caribbean) who do not pay their subscription (dues) in sterling should pay by sending to the North American Representative (see above for address) a cheque for USA \$20 made payable to 'BWISC'. Other overseas members who pay their subscription by cheque drawn in a foreign currency or on a foreign bank MUST add the equivalent of £3 sterling partially to cover exchange and bank charges. The overseas rates quoted include an element to cover postage of the Bulletin by Air Mail.

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PROGRAMME OF SOCIETY EVENTS
Biennial Convention

Friday 19th to Sunday 21st Sept 2003 (at the end of Stampex).

To be held at the Honiley Court Hotel, Honiley, Warwick.



Web site at <http://www.corushotels.com/hotel.asp?hotelID=49>

Leaflet with details to be distributed shortly.

Golden Jubilee 2004 Charles Freeland

Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st October 2004.

The Circle will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2004 and is planning a two-day event at the Royal Philatelic Society on Saturday 30th and at Spink on Sunday 31st, with a dinner on the intervening evening. More details to follow.....

Publication Timetable

September Issue – The contents will be finalised 26th July 2003, so please provide contributions ahead of this date.

CHEPSTOW MUSEUM DISPLAY

BY DAVID KING

"From Son of Slave to Sheriff Of Monmouthshire, Nathaniel Wells Of Piecefield And St Kitts"

Wells was the son of a Cardiff sugar plantation owner on St Kitts, his mother was a slave on the plantation. He was educated in England, inherited his father's estates and so became a slave owner himself. Contemporary diaries reveal that Nathaniel was black, making his rise to Sheriff of the County in 1818, and eventually deputy lieutenant an extraordinary achievement for that era.

I was contacted by the curator of Chepstow Museum to provide scanned images from my collection of St Kitts postcards relating to the sugar industry on the island. The Museum is launching an exhibition focusing on the extraordinary life of Nathaniel Wells commencing on the 7th of May to the middle of August. Any member with an interest in St Kitts, the slave trade and sugar industry will find this a fascinating and worthwhile exhibition to visit.

BRITISH WEST INDIES STUDY CIRCLE

INCOME STATEMENT : YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2002

	£'s	2002	£'s	2001
INCOME :				
Subscriptions		2,625		2,677
Publications – Net surplus less postage	268		1,041	
Less: <i>Publication advertising</i>	(150)		-	
<i>Depreciation of printer</i>		118	(596)	445
Auction and other donations		724		852
Opinion fees		-		26
Interest received less tax		20		32
TOTAL INCOME		3,487		4,032
EXPENDITURE :				
Bulletin Costs less advertising	2072		2,003	
Distribution and editorial expenses	889	2961	1,151	3,154
Library - Cost of removal		220		162
Meeting room hire		230		200
Wipex (Leamington 2001) – net cost after recoveries		256		35
ABPS affiliation fee		133		144
Officers administration – Stationery, postage, telephone etc		132		185
Miscellaneous		58		151
		3,990		4,031
SURPLUS INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£'s	(503)	£'s	1

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2002

ACCUMULATED FUND

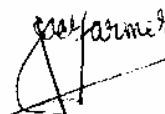
Balance at 1st January 2002	18,552	18,551
Add: Surplus for the year	(503)	1
Dollar conversion reserve	232	275
	18,281	18,827
Less : Stocks of publications at cost	(14,700)	(15,158)
£'s	3,581	£'s 3,669

REPRESENTED BY:

Printer (net of depreciation)	-	-
Cash at banks	5,999	6,307
Debtors - amounts due to us	537	226
	6,536	6,533
Less : Subscriptions received in advance	(2,583)	(2,681)
Other creditors - Amounts due by us	(372)	(183)
£'s	3,581	£'s 3,669

AUDITORS REPORT

I hereby certify that the income statement for the year ended 31st December 2002 is in accordance with the books, vouchers and explanations given to me ; and that the Balance Sheet at the 31st December 2002 shows the financial state of the British West Indies Study Circle as at that date, save that the Stocks of Publications, whilst valued at cost as consistent with previous accounts, are unlikely to have a market value of the sum stated on that date and therefore in the balance sheet have been treated as having a nil value. In all other respects the finances of the Study Circle appear to be sound. There are two honorary life members.

 J.A.C. Farmer, F.C.A., FRPSL, Honorary Auditor

**MINUTES OF THE 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWISC
HELD IN THE COUNTY HOTEL AT 2:15 PM SATURDAY 26TH APRIL 2003**

1. Chairman's Welcome

The meeting was opened by Peter Ford, who was asked to chair the meeting in the absence of Derek Nathan. Peter extended a warm welcome to the 32 members present.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Derek Brook, Denis Charlesworth, Tony Farmer, Simon Greenwood and Derek Nathan.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 27th April 2002 as published in the June 2002 Bulletin were taken as read and were approved by the members present.

4. Report by the Hon. General Secretary (Peter Boulton)

The news about this year's Leamington Convention scheduled for 19th - 20th September is that it will not actually be held in Leamington! A booking was originally made for The Manor House Hotel, but I recently received news from a member that there were rumours that the hotel was to be closed for redevelopment. The management could not guarantee that it would be open in September, but they offered us another hotel in the group at the same rates. This is the Honiley Court Hotel situated near Honiley, about 9 miles from Leamington Spa. Derek Nathan has visited the hotel with his wife Mary and they were both very impressed with the facilities and accommodation. There is a large car park available, but for members travelling by train there are 3 stations accessible by taxi (Warwick Parkway - 10 minutes, Berkswell - 5 minutes and Birmingham International - 20 minutes). The hotel has a minibus available to pick up from Birmingham International Station, by prior arrangement and preferably for several members arriving together. The Committee has agreed that we should accept the offer of the Honiley Court Hotel and would like to thank Derek Brook for giving us the news in good time to change the arrangements. These are basically the same as in previous years, and we are fortunate in having formal displays by Stella Pearce on "Antigua" and Peter Fernbank on "Imperium GV Key Plate Issues". The Convention leaflet and booking form will be circulated with the June issue of the Bulletin.

The membership now stands at a total of 332, of which 225 are UK members and 107 are overseas members. This shows a slight increase on last year's total of 330, which is encouraging because some losses were expected due to the increase in subscriptions. I am receiving an increasing number of enquiries about membership and 21 new members were enrolled during the year. A total of 7 members resigned and 4 members have died. Eight members were removed due to failure to pay their subscriptions, even after reminder letters. The membership database is working satisfactorily and is continuously being updated. Changes of addresses etc. and new members are recorded in each issue of the Bulletin. Members are urged to let me know about any change of address as soon as possible, otherwise they may miss an issue of the Bulletin.

5. Report by the Hon. Editor (Steve Jarvis)

My first year as Editor has been enjoyable since producing the first issue. It was at that point that my wife saw my name inside the front cover and I was able to confess to her that I had taken on the task – despite her 'instruction' the previous year that I didn't have sufficient time and there was a long list of jobs for the house and garden that needed attention. The enjoyment came when I knew that a 'Marge Simpson growl' was the only admonishment that I was to receive!

The bulletin seems to be in a fairly healthy state, thanks to the exceptional efforts of members providing articles for publication. However, one should never be complacent and I would encourage all members to have a go at providing material – even half a page is always welcome and this often builds confidence to produce more substantial articles.

I would like to record my great thanks to Michael Oliver, who has organised the printing and distribution of the bulletin faultlessly, to Charles Kennard for the provision of software to ease my burden and particularly to Charles Freeland, whose encyclopaedic knowledge across West Indian territories has compensated for my narrow Jamaican expertise (not to mention his proof reading skills, which have prevented embarrassing grammatical errors and typographic mistakes).

As to the future, I would like to introduce colour illustrations – the feasibility of this is being investigated but we need to be conscious of not only the printing costs and logistics but also the postage weight, which is currently finely balanced at just under 100 gms.

The web site is also continuing to develop – but can be improved. New bulletins are being published on-line, Peter Fernbank and I are also progressively converting old bulletins to electronic format. I would ask Study Group leaders to provide / suggest suitable material for each territory. It is relatively simple for me to publish articles on the internet and I would encourage anyone to submit material to me so that our information service can be advanced.

I apologise to anyone who has had difficulty downloading pages, it seems that files over a certain size become truncated in the download process; the service provider provides a very cost effective service but this problem seems to be the price one has to pay.

6. Report by the Hon. Treasurer (Ray Stanton)

The Income statement for the Study Circle for the year ended 31st December 2002 shows a deficit of £503. A shortfall in 2002 was anticipated at the time of the last AGM and the actual deficit of £503 is in line with our expectations.

Some of the reasons for the deficit were one-off, such as the moving of the library, but most are increases in cost level over the last two years or so such as in the production and distribution of the bulletin and the cost of hiring rooms for meetings. In the previous year 2001 these costs increases were masked by the particularly good level of income from books and auctions, which was always unlikely to be achieved in 2002.

In fact due to the efforts of Steve Jarvis and Michael Oliver we have kept the total cost of the bulletin in line with the previous year despite our earlier fears, but the cost of rooms including WIPEX has increased despite the move to a cheaper location.

However as a result of the increase in subscriptions agreed at last year's AGM, even though the effect will only come in gradually, I am confident that the deficit will be less in 2003. Much will depend on whether the Leamington meeting can be self financing as it almost was in 2001.

I would like once again to thank Tony Farmer for auditing the accounts for the Study Circle in his usual professional way.

7. Report by the Hon. Librarian (Ian Jakes)

The library was successfully relocated to 1 Sherwood Street, Warsop, Mansfield, Notts. NG20 0JP in May 2002. The library has its own room and facilities. Personal visits to the library can be accommodated by prior appointment with the Hon. Librarian.

There has been a loan of ten books to five members during the year. The Peter Jaffe Book on St. Vincent 1772 to 1897 is currently being viewed by two of our North American members.

I have provided another member with copies of various articles from the Barbados Scrap Book relating to modern Barbados to assist him with a presentation to a Philatelic Society.

I have also been in correspondence with John Dickson of the South African Collectors Society and provided him with information from our bulletins (especially volume 11 of October 1956 on pages 47-48) which provided the answer for the existence of the perf. twelve De La Rue ½d stamp of Natal.

Finally, I continue to be in correspondence with the Cayman Islands National Archive. They have effectively asked us to provide them with copies of all articles in our bulletins and scrap book relating to Cayman Islands philately. Some information has already been provided; the remainder of the request is still being processed.

8. Report by the Hon. Publications Officer (Peter Ford)

The year was interrupted by my house move and because of this we did not publish any books in the period. However, this did not mean that time was being wasted. I have finished typesetting Volume 9 of our Jamaica Encyclopaedia and we are trying to find a way of printing it. The problem has occurred insofar as I have been unable to find any paper remotely like that used previously. Also, I have been unable to find anyone who can shrink-wrap the pages in Spain. There also remains the problem of the cost of transporting the book to England. One answer is to buy another printer and print the books in the UK. The Committee has been addressing this problem today at our meeting. In future, I will print our hard-bound books using our existing A3 printer and distribute

them partly from Spain (say to the US and overseas) and partly from the UK, transporting as many books as I can carry each time I return to the UK (approx. once every 2 months).

Sales this last year have been buoyant; sales figures are as follows:

Jamaica Vol. 1	.....	4
Jamaica Vol. 6	.....	9
Barbados Deakin	.....	4
Barbados PO Markings	.....	2
Montserrat	.....	2
Dominica	.....	2
Leewards Islands	.....	14
Nevis	.....	13
Bulletin Index	.....	13

As far as future publications are concerned, Volume 8, the Airmails volume is progressing well although I have yet to receive the manuscript. David Druett and I are working on a new, hopefully extended work based on Sir John Marriott's previous work on Trinidad, but extending the coverage to the end of the Trinidad only period, before Trinidad & Tobago issues, using papers of his donated to the Study Circle by Sir John's widow, Lady Mary. I have typeset all of the original book, illustrating it with items from his own collection, images generously contributed by Spink auction house. Most of the remainder of the Marriott papers are to hand but there are certain sections still missing. They are being sought out and, hopefully, this book will be ready by the time of our 2004 celebrations. There is other material in the pipeline but more of this on another occasion.

Further into the future, I would like to purchase an A3 colour laser printer. The old inkjet printer, which we have been using, is nearing the end of its useful life. It had been purchased in 1996 by Frank Deakin and I, preparatory to publishing his Barbados booklet. Colour images printed on it are not colourfast i.e. they will run if wetted, whereas those printed on a laser printer are colourfast. This would indeed be a large expense for the Study Circle, however it must be put into the context of the costs of printing say, a 300 page hardback book commercially. Even without colour images, the cost of producing 300 copies of such a book would probably run to £10,000 or £12,000, whereas an A3 colour laser printer would cost approximately £3,000 and last us for years and print at least 8 or 10 publications. If we want to continue to have an active publications policy, I believe such a purchase is necessary. As a Study Circle we publish, I believe, more books than any other similar organisation and the benefit we gain from such a publications policy is well worth the money.

Peter stated that it had been agreed by the Committee in the morning that the Circle should purchase an A3 colour printer to be used by him in Spain. The existing A3 printer would be moved back to the UK so that some publications could be printed here, possibly the Bulletin. Members would be asked to underwrite the cost as a backstop in case the Circle finances should fall further.

9. Report by the Hon. Public Relations Officer (Anthony Wilkinson)

Anthony reported that he had sent information on BWISC activities such as WIPEX to the ABPS, Stamp Collecting, Gibbons Stamp Monthly and Stamp and Coin Mart. He said that he had not received any acknowledgements, but this appears to be normal practice. He had also circulated information to prospective members, in response to enquiries.

10. Report by the Chairman of the Committee (Derek Nathan) - Read by Peter Ford

Firstly, I do apologise for not attending at this AGM, the first one I have missed for many years. I had a ridiculous failure in memory, which led to a double booking, and, as your Chairman, this should not be allowed to happen, This shows my increasing frailty and is a very good reason to replace me immediately. A proposal will be put before you later in the meeting.

The outstanding philatelic event of the BWISC year was the WIPEX meeting at the County Hotel in September, which has been written up in detail elsewhere, but this was overshadowed for many of us by the tragic early death of Steve Sharp, Committee member, leader of the St Vincent group, chief steward at most of our gatherings and a willing horse to carry out whatever needed to be carried out - often literally.

Steve also added a voice of commonsense in many of our discussions and we shall miss him keenly, in fact we already have. I am delighted that Janet is able to be here today to help Simon with the auction, and I believe she knows how we feel about him.

A more recent loss to our circle was Victor Toeg's wife, Lettie, who had for many years attended Leamington and many other occasions in company with Victor. Although she had been ill for some time, it was still a shock, particularly for Victor, to lose her, and our thoughts are with him at this time.

I suggest we should stand for a moment to acknowledge these losses.

On a more cheerful note, we should congratulate John Riggall, who was honoured at New Year for his work with SSAFA in Lincolnshire.

Consequent upon our meeting last year, a number of personnel changes took place, one of which, Editor of the Bulletin, has been a particular success. I should like to express my thanks to Steve Jarvis for the way the Bulletin has matured and also for the spectacularly good website which he is managing for us. Thank you very much, Steve. The regular feature on auctions around the planet by Charles Freeland, is, in addition, something appreciated by many of our members.

Charles has also been active in putting together some ideas for the celebration of our Golden Jubilee in 2004, and I'm sure you will be hearing more about this later in the meeting.

No appreciation would be complete without acknowledging the contribution made by our annual auction, without which both our interest and our subscriptions would suffer. We are all very happy that Simon is not only continuing in this vital role but has recruited a sorcerer's apprentice in Nigel Chandler.

We have been advised that the Manor House Hotel at Leamington is to be closed for much needed refurbishment, but Peter Boulton has fixed a great deal for us at The Honiley Court Hotel in the same area, of which I'm sure you will get details from him

For a number of years now, Clary Holt has acted as our North American representative, but ill-health and advancing years have forced him to ask for relief. We are lucky to have secured the services of Dr Raj Ramphal of Toronto in this post and wish him great success in it. Ray Stanton is investigating whether running the North American account is practicable from Canada, and his conclusions will be made known to you.

Finally, let me wish the new incumbent in this chair, whoever he may be, the best of luck and continued support from the very able committee and secretariat who really run things.

11. Report by Charles Freeland on the Progress Toward 2004 Golden Jubilee

Charles Freeland reported that the Committee had accepted the recommendations of a sub-Committee he had chaired. The celebrations would take place over the weekend of 30-31 October 2004 in London, the easiest location for our many overseas members. The dates had been chosen to coincide with Philatex at the Horticultural Halls. Saturday 30 October would be a display day at the Royal Philatelic Society highlighted by BWI items from the Royal collection. That evening, a semi-formal dinner would be held at the Getti restaurant close to the Royal. Sunday 31 would be a "commercial" day at Spink, with dealers' tables and other events. The Committee would be asking a number of members to manage the individual events under the overall control of Derek Nathan. Further details would be published in later bulletins.

Simon Goldblatt said that he was hoping to organise on the Sunday not only the normal members' table but also a very select private treaty offering that would be open to tenders from both members and non-members.

12. Election of the Chairman of the Committee

The meeting was informed that during the Committee meeting in the morning, Peter Ford was proposed and seconded to be the next Chairman of the Committee.

13. Re-election of Officers

The President, Vice-Presidents, Hon. Officers and Messrs. M.Hamilton and D. Mitton have all agreed to continue as members of the Committee. Consequently, all are automatically re-elected. During the Committee meeting in the morning, Nigel Chandler was elected to the Committee for his work in preparing the members' auction catalogue. It was proposed by Peter Ford and seconded by Simon Goldblatt that Derek Nathan be elected as a Vice President. This was approved

unanimously by the members. Derek was also to be asked to be Group Leader of the British Guiana study group.

14. Re-election of the Hon. Auditor

Mr. J.A.C. Farmer has agreed to stand and there are no other nominations. Consequently, he is automatically re-elected. Ray Stanton proposed a vote of thanks to Tony for the good work which he has done as auditor, and this was agreed by the meeting.

15. Other Business

It was proposed by Peter Ford and seconded by Alan Pearse that Clary Holt be elected as a Life Member of the Circle. This motion was carried unanimously. It was then proposed by Peter Ford and seconded by Dennis Milton that Janet Sharp should also be elected as a Life Member. This was carried unanimously as well.

Peter Ford asked for volunteers who are willing to help in any way towards next year's Jubilee events.

AUCTION REPORT – 2003

For many years our annual auctions have set a target and a limit of 500 lots. This was geared to the selling speed of our regular auctioneer ("approximately 219 lots an hour", he tells us) and the need to be clear of the Bonnington Hotel by 6 p.m. With this year's fresh venue at the County Hotel, freed from a rigid departure deadline, the brakes came off. 70 more lots than usual appeared in the catalogue, and the sale ran to an extra 20 minutes (approximately). A sale total of 381 lots passing into new hands, and a realisation of £14,321.25 tell their own success story. Indeed, we might add 'and counting'. At the time of this report a further 9 lots have changed hands while the hammer prices listed at the end have been marginally affected by re-checking of the book bids, although nothing alters the position of the bidders who attended.

Of course, ten days before the sale our auctioneer was displaying his customary gloom; fewer bidders than usual and serious gaps on his book. In a way, forebodings were partly justified. Even when bidding began, there were twenty fewer postal bidders competing than has been the case in a busier year, and there were fewer bidders registering in the auction room. Moreover, three members who have been heavy buyers in the past were not taking part. Yet quality tells, and we believe this was a quality sale; to sell almost two thirds of a larger offering was satisfying enough; to do so without impact on the overall valuations, was the icing on the cake. The total realised was almost 2% above the catalogue estimates for those lots.

Certainly there were some heavy-weight items on offer, and these could easily have unbalanced the statistics. They did not. Lots valued at £200 or above which found a buyer were estimated at £3930. They went for £3900 – one extra bid might have achieved a par result.

A disappointment for some was the withdrawal of lot 261. This apparently glamorous item turned out, after close re-scrutiny, to have been tampered with and 'improved'. Very generously the owner, rather than allowing it to be offered to those present on an 'as-is' basis, decided to withdraw it from the sale and to give it to the BWISC instead. So we have the first entry to the Circle's black museum. Thank you, Malcolm Lacey!

Turning to the starring items, the earliest was lot 12, the Antigua 2½d red-brown with slanting foot variety. Catalogue assessment of condition was lukewarm, with correspondingly modest valuation, but the buyer was not deterred, paying £420 for a stamp that is seriously rare.

There were other serious rarities of course. The Bahamas trial perf. (lot 27) went for £980, and the Bermuda cluster of KGV £1 values fiscally used fetched £1400 (lot 131), each of these to a book buyer; so we shall have to wait at least another year for a member to be seen to bid four figures. We cannot believe that there will be another Bermuda find to equal the batch from which our fiscal item came – probably 250 stamps from a printing of 6,000 that lasted for virtually 20 years.

Barbados was in great demand, with 61 lots selling out of 71 on offer, and at one point 20 lots sold in succession, a Circle record. The ½d Specimen, lot 71, went for £52 (est. £16) its condition not deterring competition. Plymouth to Bristol TPO produced lively competition in the room for a notable £38 (lot 86, est £20). The L & Co. Perfin more than trebled its estimate (lot 93, £19), and lot 104, at £35, did almost the same. Did our describers miss something here?

British Guiana was patchy this year, though the postmark lots 180 and 186 were well supported; and our colour illustrations surely gave a boost to some of the later postmark attraction. Wesley from Dominica (lot 236) made £85 against est. of only £20 (condition again discouraging the describers). In Nevis, lot 378, combining Crown Circle and manuscript date brought £65 against est. £30. Both these items were fiercely contested in the room. When lot 394 came up (Sandy Point, est. £20) a book limit of £39 proved not quite enough, though this was the figure at which Colonarie (lot 449 est. £16) was captured on the book. Each was a lovely strike, as the back page of the catalogue underlines.

Another high flyer in full colour was the Leeward 1/- with plate no. 28, our lot 351. Assessed at a modest £10, it was knocked down at £48. These occasional high prices animate and lift the sale, but if this happened all the time, our auction team would go home with very red faces.

In a buoyant auction, only Jamaica was in the doldrums, selling only 30 lots out of a listed 65 – yet some auction houses would be delighted to sell this percentage across the board. As a counterbalance there was no dying of interest towards the end, with Trinidad, Turks and Virgin Is. all selling reasonably well, whilst the usually sleepy Tobago sparked real enthusiasm. The early and alluring fleuron, lot 465, realised £130 instead of the £40 estimate, though the book was left behind at £40. Then lot 472, the 4d with 'everything' was chased up to £70 from an opening £31. It certainly justified the cat '£50+++' description.

For lot 541 "upwardly mobile" also proved exactly right: estimate £33, sale price £70, another result given a leg-up by our colour illustration.

So, how do we rate the BWI market? In a single word – healthy. Moreover, our Circle will have its 50th birthday next year and on present plans our April auction in 2004 will only be the overture. If our aspirations are fulfilled, when the autumn comes, there should be an offering of 50 world-class rarities, one for each year of the Circle's life. On this occasion (only) a sale may be thrown open to the world at large, but there will still be advantage in having belonged to the Circle before its anniversary year begins.

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3	15.00	73	20.00	142	36.00	245	19.00	349	23.00	424	12.00	510	20.00
5	30.00	75	37.00	143	14.00	246	160.00	350	16.00	425	46.00	513	24.00
6	36.00	76	27.00	146	48.00	248	75.00	351	48.00	426	14.00	515	4.00
7	32.00	77	8.50	149	15.00	249	80.00	352	21.00	428	40.00	516	24.00
9	13.00	78	15.50	150	28.00	250	5.25	353	65.00	430	21.00	517	12.00
10	31.00	79	12.50	152	300.00	252	28.00	355	8.00	431	21.00	519	20.00
11	27.00	80	8.50	153	70.00	253	18.00	358	140.00	433	26.00	521	27.00
12	420.00	81	9.00	154	240.00	254	24.00	359	105.00	434	26.00	522	29.00
14	17.00	83	4.50	155	11.50	255	21.00	360	31.00	435	30.00	523	16.50
15	90.00	85	80.00	156	27.00	256	19.00	361	10.00	436	44.00	524	16.50
17	110.00	86	38.00	158	21.00	257	14.50	362	70.00	438	28.00	525	9.00
21	10.50	87	12.00	166	22.00	258	8.50	363	3.75	439	9.50	526	1.50
23	120.00	88	18.00	170	13.00	259	30.00	364	9.00	440	18.00	527	18.00
24	90.00	89	9.00	174	12.50	260	7.50	365	5.25	442	50.00	530	30.00
25	230.00	90	10.00	175	33.00	261	wdraw	366	20.00	443	52.00	531	10.00
27	980.00	93	19.00	176	42.00	263	17.00	370	11.00	444	70.00	534	20.00
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37	19.00	100	11.00	188	6.00	287	35.00	378	65.00	457	12.00	544	16.00
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40	34.00	104	35.00	196	12.00	290	30.00	381	9.00	464	24.00	548	30.00
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46	48.00	109	28.00	200	24.00	300	14.00	386	17.00	468	85.00	554	12.00
47	65.00	110	12.50	201	8.00	302	32.00	388	1.50	470	24.00	556	65.00
48	60.00	111	36.00	203	20.00	303	6.00	391	58.00	472	70.00	557	11.00
49	40.00	113	44.00	206	8.00	306	16.00	392	32.00	473	56.00	559	15.50
50	52.00	115	16.00	208	9.00	308	15.50	394	40.00	475	4.00	560	4.50
51	22.00	116	8.00	210	12.00	309	12.00	395	18.00	476	24.00	561	5.50
52	13.00	117	11.50	211	15.00	310	27.00	396	6.00	477	4.00	562	11.50
53	5.50	118	11.50	212	23.00	312	9.00	397	19.00	479	23.00	565	8.00
54	20.00	119	18.00	214	10.00	316	38.00	398	11.00	484	31.00	566	10.50
55	31.00	120	6.00	216	7.00	319	10.00	401	19.00	485	85.00	570	10.50
56	31.00	121	80.00	217	12.00	321	13.00	402	32.00	486	180.00		
57	25.00	122	58.00	218	11.50	322	12.00	403	15.00	489	85.00		
58	9.50	123	28.00	220	65.00	325	70.00	404	7.50	490	9.00		
59	12.50	124	42.00	223	70.00	327	7.50	405	50.00	491	90.00		
60	31.00	125	23.00	229	31.00	331	11.00	409	29.00	492	160.00		
61	5.75	128	6.00	230	8.00	332	6.50	410	180.00	498	26.00		
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67	10.00	133	20.00	236	85.00	341	30.00	415	6.00	504	100.00		
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69	9.00	137	13.00	239	14.00	344	36.00	417	9.50	506	4.00		
70	54.00	138	80.00	241	4.00	346	42.00	419	6.00	507	44.00		

OFFERS FROM STOCK

ANTIGUA 1932. An airmail cover to England, franked with Tercentenary 1½d, 6d & 1s. tied by St Johns cds, the 6d partially overstruck by violet bars deleting the airmail instruction. £180

BAHAMAS 1918. A cover- to Nassau franked 1911 1d, and War Tax 1d, both cancelled "INAGUA / BAHAMAS" cds. £125

BARBADOS / BOER WAR 1901. an "Active Service" cover, stampless & with faults, endorsed "Stamps Unobtainable" addressed to Barbados, posted from Army PO 53, South Africa. £175

JAMAICA 1929-32. KGV 1d, 1½d, & 9d (no gum) perforated SPECIMEN, distributed through UPU Berne. Additionally handstamped & marked with crayon by receiving postal authority. £175

JAMAICA 1972. Imperforate proof of the 50c definitive value, affixed to printers (Format), presentation card. £85

ST. KITTS / ANTIGUA 1890 (Mar 27) Antigua 1d rose tied to dated piece by "A12" cancel, with matching St. Kitts cds alongside. This provisional usage occurred during Feb & March 1890. £95

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SG 80 1928-38 E1 watermark MCA. VFM block of 4, nicely centred £550
CW 1-21 1938-51 printings collection (90) on stock leaves. 1/-s with 11/42, 2/-s (6), 5/-s (3), E1 (5, no CW 13 or 13a), 10/-s (all 4; 3/42 unmounted but with tiny thin) £500
CW 2a 1944 (May) 1/2d Plate 2. VFUM sheet of 120, many plate varieties including R1/2 RP 'L' for 'L' £100
SG 98 1938 1d Die A. F-VFUM left pane less R1-4/ 5-6, no right selvage. Scarce piece now, varieties include Halford # 3, 13b, 14d, 13c, 1, 13a, 14a £300
SG 99ca 1947 1d scarlet. VFUM full sheet of 120. R7/3 LP 'DI' flaw and many other varieties £625
SG 100 1950-51 1d green. VFUM complete sheet of 120, R7/3 LP 'DI' flaw and value tablet dent both corrected £95
SG 109ab 1942-47 6d ordinary paper. VFM, R4/1 RP broken 'E' £130

Leeward Islands

SG 110a 1938 1/- Plate 1. F-VFUM marginal block of 4, R9/6 RP 'DI' flaw £295
SG 112a 1938 5/- Plate 1. VFUM, R4/1 RP broken 'E'. Fresh £525
SG 113 1938 10/- bluish green and deep red on green paper. VFUM £150
SG 113a 1942 (March) 10/- VFUM example with the major flaws #12a, c. Margin (with sheet no. 60) re-joined £350
SG 113b 1943 10/- green and red on green paper. VFUM £110
SG 113ca 1944 10/- (emerald back) VFUM example with HPFs #49a cut scroll and 49c missing pearl £800
CW 13c 1942 (Oct.) E1. VFUM block of 4, hinged on one stamp only £210
SG 114af 1942 (Oct.) E1. VFU example with HPF #17 'gash in chin' £400

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BARBADOS

TWO OFFICERS' LETTERS OF THE 1860's

BY FITZ ROETT

INTRODUCTION

Mail which has been subjected to any manner of unusual handling or which has been transmitted at a special rate almost always causes the discerning philatelist to sit up and take notice. Such is the case of letters sent to or from personnel serving in the armed forces, both at home and abroad. This article will examine two covers which were sent by military officers.

The special concessionary rate granted to officers is documented in Britnor⁽¹⁾. Suffice to say, the authority for this rate is given in Treasury Warrant, 27 September 1867, which came into effect on January 1, 1868. In this document, the rate was set forth as: *Letters, to or from any Commissioned Officer, between the U.K. and any Colony or Foreign Country: 6d. per ½ oz.*

It would appear that none of these concessionary rate items were recorded until the early 1970's. The BWISC bulletin⁽²⁾ reprinted an original published article with an illustration of an Officer's letter. In addition, further details concerning both the special rate and the sender of the letter were given.

THE POOLE CORRESPONDENCE

In the article cited above, the sender of the letter was: Staff Surgeon Major W(ellesley) W(ellington) W(aterloo) Poole. Over the years, several other covers from this correspondence have appeared on the market. Our current tally of *different* covers (although this is, at times, difficult and we always run the risk of counting the same cover twice or more times) amounts to twenty three. Our records indicate the correspondence starts September 24, 1867 and ends August 10, 1870. An example is given in Figure 1. The majority of the covers from this correspondence suffers from two major problems: (i). Tears, bits missing and scuffs on the envelopes, and (ii). Severe oxidization of the affixed stamp, since virtually all are franked with the 6d. Bright Orange-vermilion SG 31 (Sc 20). Tragically, *the unique example of the double Officers' rate*⁽³⁾ falls within the first category. Nevertheless, covers from this correspondence always fetch significant prices when they are offered for sale at auction or otherwise. The last five letters, commencing with one dated March, 1870, are all franked 1/- i.e. the full postage for a ½ oz. packet letter at that time. One can only surmise that the Major must have taken ill and retired, since he died on August 26, 1870 when on his way home from Barbados. Prior to publication, a draft copy of this article was circulated to interested collectors. We have since been informed by Stefan Heijtz that a third party has indicated the special Officer's rate was abolished in December, 1869. An email was sent to Stefan but, to date, no reply has been forthcoming. Thus, the statement remains to be confirmed from reliable sources.

THE GIBBONS COVER

A sincere rush of excitement is always produced when we encounter in philately something out of the ordinary. One such case is illustrated in Figure 2. The cover in question is franked with a 6d. G. B. stamp SG 106 and is cancelled with a single-ringed Newport, Isle-of-Wight datestamp of September 16, 1868. On the back is a London paid transit marking in red of September 17 and a Barbados arrival marking of October 4, 1868. These dated cancellations confirm the cover departed Southampton⁽⁴⁾ September 17 on the "Atrato", arriving in St. Thomas on October 1. There it was transferred to the "Tamar" which arrived in Barbados on October 4. The sender of the letter was a Lieut. Gibbons of the 11th. Foot Regiment. It is appropriately countersigned by the Commanding Officer Edward (or Edmund?) Jeffrey. This is in accordance with the provisions of the aforementioned Warrant. To date, this is certainly the only recorded Officer's letter TO Barbados. Michael Hamilton believes no other properly endorsed Officer's letter to ANY of the BWI has so far come to light.



Figure 1

Officer's Letter from Barbados dated November 9th, 1868
and bearing a copy of the 6d. Bright orange-vermilion.

Appropriately endorsed to qualify for the special rate per the Treasury Warrant of Sept. 1867.

(Ex. Benwell)



Figure 2

Officer's Letter from Newport, Isle-of-Wight to Barbados dated September 17th, 1868
and correctly franked 6d. for the special Officer's rate.

Believed unique usage, not only to Barbados, but also to the rest of the BWI.

So who was Lieut. Gibbons and to whom was the letter addressed?

The following is a brief summary of the Lieutenant:

Frederick Fitzroy GIBBONS

Born	November 12, 1841 in Barbados.
Parents:	William Barton Gibbons and Mary Bishop (Skeete)
Married	Emma Ann Hayton October 30, 1867 Grahamstown, South Africa
Children:	Mary Hayton November 25, 1868 Newport, Isle of Wight William Frederick May 21, 1870 Old Brompton, Chatham Edith Emily May 14, 1872 Curragh Camp Crookendon deCourcy August 13, 1874 Stoke, Devonport Kathleen Tarifa February 12, 1877 Bombay, East Indies
Appointments:	Appointed Ensign or Cornet – 11th. Foot Regiment July 4, 1860 Lieutenant – 11th. Foot Regiment August 9, 1864 Captain – 11th. Foot Regiment July 22, 1871 Major – Devonshire Regiment July 1, 1881 Lieut. Colonel – Devonshire Regiment January 18, 1888 Retired as Lieut. Colonel 2nd. Battalion Devonshire Regiment January 18, 1892
Service:	Home – July, 1860 to July, 1861 Cape – July, 1861 to April, 1865 China – April, 1865 to May, 1866 Cape – May, 1866 to December, 1867 Home – December, 1867 to February, 1877 India – February, 1877 to April, 1881 Home – April, 1881 to April, 1888 India – April, 1888, to ??
Decorations:	Afghan War Medal 1878 – 79 – 80 Died at Wolverton, Bucks. May 17, 1914.

And so, we can piece the story together: When the letter was written on September 16 1868 Lieut. Gibbons was stationed at Newport, Isle of Wight. The letter was addressed to his father and he was, no doubt, providing an update on the upcoming birth of his child. Mary Hayton subsequently arrived on November 25.

Yet the story of the cover is still not complete. On the front is a St. Thomas "8" Type M2 arrival parish (often erroneously referred to as *village* cancels by experienced philatelists!) marking of October 5. Our knowledge of the island places Gibbs in St. Peter, rather than St. Thomas. However, according to Schomburgk⁽⁵⁾ Appendix VII – Dealing with the Boundaries established by Law: *St. Thomas* - On St. James, from the boundary of St. Michael, in Bullard's land (now Clermont), through Bullard's mill to Dotin's and Maverick's corner plum-tree, a straight line; from thence to Gibbes's mill (now Plum-tree) a straight line; from thence to Walter's south mill a straight line." Thus, it was established that Gibbes (note the different spelling) was located in St. Thomas, although being on the boundary separating the two parishes. According to our latest map of the island, the plantation is still named Plumtree. Incidentally, according to Clarke et al.⁽⁶⁾ this is the earliest recorded date of use of the St. Thomas M2 cancel.

In summary, a superlative piece of Barbados and, dare we say, BWI postal history!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the following in preparing this article: Michael Hamilton for checking his vast data base of BWI covers for any Officers' mail; Mary Kerr and Mary Gleadall in providing information on the Lieutenant Colonel, Stefan Heijtz for the information regarding the abolition of the Officers' rate and to Mary K again for solving the apparent "Gibbes" dilemma.

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Stock	ANTIGUA	Price	Stock	BRITISH GUIANA	Price
23045	1822 entire headed "Antigua June 12, 1822" marked "p. West Indian" to The Rev. Josiah Pratt in London rated 2/- showing fine strikes black SHIP LETTER / (Crown) / 15 JY 15/1822/ LONDON (S.22) and h/struck red "G P" (for General Post). B/stamped same date 4 o'clock arrival.	£175	24237	Entire Demerara Dec. 20 1839 to London with fine DEAL/SHIP LETTER (S.8) above address and FE 14 1840 receiver top flap. Rated "8" as arrival after JA 7 1840 introduction of all inclu-sive 8d ship letter rate from BWI per half ounce	£75
27185	1878 mourning cover to New Bond Str. changed Brixton with fine Crowned "R" re-direction h/stamp. Horiz. pair QV 6d blue-green CC P.14 (SG.18) tied "A02" with Antigua A/MY 10 78 lower left corner. Smaller faults, attractive.	£500	28113	Internal mail to the Lunatic Asylum: 1867 cover to Miss Sarah Wilson, Lunatic Asylum, Berbice marked "In care of Mr. Breaton" (known to be the Superintendent) with 4c greyish-blue P.12½ (SG.60) pmk'd "A03" with Georgetown and New Amsterdam AU 14 67 b/stamps.	£125
23007	ALL-SAINTS */7 FE 41, good tying KG6 3d orange (SG.103) to cover to New York. Tape at left tied black ANTIGUA/(crown)/PASSED BY CENSOR d/ring.	£36	24150	1882 2c orange CA (SG.171), scarce fine used horiz. strip of four, New Amsterdam NO 16 83.	£12
23084	JOHNSONS POINT */SP 1 48, good full upr. cds tying KG6 1½d chocolate-brown (SG.100) to piece.	£12	26862	1901 2c dull purple & black/red CA (SG.235), a rare attractive used marginal block of six (3 x 2) pmk'd New Amsterdam 13 FEB 2.	£24
			27719	1907 4c brown & purple MCA (SG.254), scarce very fine used block of four 30 MAR 1912 cds.	£14
Stock	BAHAMAS	Price	Stock	BRITISH HONDURAS	Price
23244	1d pale red Staircase PSE (116 x 89mm) with added KE7 4d orange (SG.64, cat.£55) tied upr. Nassau C/FE 24 03 reg. to F. Koch in Berlin.	£48	23004	BOMBA (bluish-violet TDC-6) MAR 31 1929 P.M., two very fine strikes tying KGV 4c, 5c with fine Bomba reg. h/stamp on Parke cover to New Hampshire.	£200
23085	1918 reg. cover to W.A. Vaughn, Nassau re-directed to St. Louis, Missouri with block of four KGV 1/- grey-black & carmine WAR TAX (SG.99) tied Nassau 24 AUG 18 cds. Address panel showing fine violet circular RELEASED BY CENSOR BOARD h/stamp.	£125	23249	ROARING CREEK (TDO-1a) SEP 28 1951, three very fine strikes plus superb village reg. h/stamp on KG6 1c, 2c, 3c defin. cover to McFarlan, Pennsylvania.	£36
23110	ACKLINS ISLAND (T.3) 22 DEC 26, two fine strikes on KGV 1d carmine (SG.116) cover to the Bluine Manufacturing Co. in Concord, Mass.	£85			
23055	KNOWLES'S (T.5) */SP 13 32, four very fine cds tying KGV 2½d ultramarine (SG.119) to cover to Cedar, Washington.	£75			
Stock	BARBADOS	Price	Stock	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Price
23031	Obliterator "7" (C1), good/fine full upr. on (1d) pale blue (SG.9). Stamp with clear margins Cat.£65.00.	£40	23128	1903 KE7 1d carmine CA (SG.4), fresh w/centred mint block of four. Cat.£40.00.	£24
23019	Bootheel "9", very fine/superb full upr. on CC REVERSED 1d grey-blue (SG.74x).	£48	24937	1917 1½d on 2½d deep blue WAR STAMP (SG.54), two fine used blocks of four in deep blue and dullish deep blue, first undated with short fraction bar, second dated 1 MY 17.	£36
29315	The bogus "Revenue" and "HALF PENNY" on perforated diagonally left half genuine QV 1d carmine (SG.92) tied by faked Barbados open bootheel duplex A/JA 4 87 to cover addressed The Highway, St. Christopher. Faked St. Kitts arrival cds dated C/JA 18 87 in black on face and C/JA 18 87 in red on reverse. Opened for display, central fold and other small faults but most unusual. The only entire known as such.	£300	24930	1965 (DE 11) cover franked QE2 9d Kingfish to Khartoum, Sudan with two violet strikes boxed "SURFACE MAIL", one strike deleting violet boxed "SECOND CLASS/AIR MAIL" (50x17mm) h/stamp.	£24
23150	1892 "PENNY HALF-" on QV 4d deep brown (SG.104d), fine used pmk'd JY 27 92 showing large "L" in "HALF". 1947 RPS certificate.	£140			
24884	1959 (MR 9) commercial cover to House Wives Choice, BBC, London franked 12c Federation with violet "DAMAGED BY/STAMPING MACHINE" h/stamp struck front and back.	£35			
Stock	BERMUDA	Price	Stock	DOMINICA	Price
23125	1893 QV 1/- green CC P.12 x 12½ (SG.11), fine mint block of four. Cat.£44.00.	£28	26680	1879 QV 6d green REVENUE (R2), fine fully dated used with CC INVERTED wmk. SG unpriced.	£50
23117	1893 QV 1/- yellow-brown CA (SG.29), fresh w/centred u/m block of four. Cat.£60.00.	£40	24933	1909 3d purple/yellow View (SG.51), fresh u/m block of ten (5 x 2) from the bottom of sheet with margins 3 sides showing Plate 1 twice.	£25
26496	1894 mourning cover to Southampton, England with QV ½d green, 2d aniline purple, 2½d pale ultramarine tied light Hamilton MR 22 94 duplex.	£200			
Stock		Price	Stock	GRENADA	Price
			23092	1873 cover piece with right marginal (probably lower right corner marginal) horiz. pair QV 6d orange-red (SG.7) neatly pmk'd A/GRENADA/MY 26 73 cds. Attractive.	£70
			23040	Forged Parish "A" 19 JU 88, very fine fullish upr. tying 4d on QV 2/- orange (SG.41) to fragment, stamp with trace m/script cancel.	£14
			26405	QV 1d carmine UPU Post Card to London with fine strikes Carriacou "F" dated 29 NO 94 in black ink.	£180
			29263	KE7 1d carmine mottled stock UPU Post Card MR 4 05 p. S.S. "Maracas" to Finland.	£18

Stock	JAMAICA - COVERS	Price
26508	MONTEGO BAY (T4a), very fine strike across flap on AU 2 1825 entire to Scotland.	£125
23050	PORUS (P5) FE 6 1847, superb exhibition strike displaying full on top flap of wrapper docketed "Whitefield" to Rev. Tidman in London rated 1/2.	£175
23105	1866 stampless cover (during adhesive period) to A. Carter in Montego Bay with RAMBLE O/JY 30 66 despatch cds on face (P10c, with Foster unlisted <u>year in two figures</u>) rated "2" unpaid. B/stamped same day arrival. Rare with index code.	£165
23137	"A58" (J) used at BLUEFIELDS JA 25 (88), clear strikes on face QV 1d blue Reply portion Post Card written Salem to Mrs. Walder at Shooter's Hill P.O. Rare, only five entires currently recorded.	£65
27950	WINDSOR CASTLE (black TRD 15) dated JUL 11 1910 good/fine full on 1d Arms (SG.40) piece.	£48
24684	1938 KG6 2½d definitive (SG.125), fine mint showing shaved lower left corner of "2" in "½d". Normal mint for comparison.	£36

Stock	LEEWARD ISLANDS	Price
24959	QV ½d newsrapper pmk'd vertical numeral (worn, indistinct centre) to Editor "Clarion", British Honduras. Undated, scarce destination.	£36
23149	1929 reg. cover to the Rt. Hon. W.A. Ormsby-Gore, London with horiz. strip of three KGV 1½d red-brown (SG.64) tied St. Kitts C/7 JU 29 cds. Government crown in blue on flap.	£28

Stock	MONTSERRAT	Price
24033	1866 QV 1d pale rose INLAND REVENUE, fine and fresh IMPERFORATE complete sheet of 12 stamps on unissued vertical laid paper with full marginal inscriptions incl. "One Penny Each - One Shilling per Sheet" (corrected for issued sheets) on gummed paper sheet number 258.	£925
23122	1919 reg. cover to Eugene Klein, Philadelphia with top right corner marginal Plate 1 block of four KGV 1½d WAR STAMP (SG.62) showing spacing variation between "1" and "½d" pmk'd A/SP 12 1919 cds.	£24

Stock	ST. KITTS-NEVIS	Price
23023	1939 cover to Miss Norma Forbes in Attleboro, Mass. with KG6 2½d ultramarine (SG.72) tied DIEPPE BAY */17 OC 39. Very fine red ST. KITTS/(Crown)/PASSED BY CENSOR 3 at left of address panel. Verv early use.	£55

Stock	ST. LUCIA	Price
24886	1855 incoming wrapper to Charles Mallet in Castries rated "6" displaying superb ST. LUCIA FE 4 1855 dbl-arc top flap plus sliver Richmond and full London JA 10 1855 despatch marks.	£250
26198	1906 local cover with two horiz. strips of five KE7 2½d (SG.68) C/FE 13 06 cds. Attractive.	£45
23158	SOUFRIERE (S2) */13 JU 21, two very fine cds tying KGV 1d carmine added to KGV 2d deep blue PSRE (151 x 94mm) to Demerara.	£60
23153	GROS-ISLET (G2) G/7 AP 30, fine strikes tying KGV 2d strip of four on cover to Manning Cruz Bay, Virgin Island. Attractive.	£140

Stock	ST. VINCENT	Price
23144	Panelli forgery of the QV 1/- in indigo very fine "used" with full "A10" cancel.	£36
23093	1869 QV 1/- indigo (SG.13), fine used vertical strip of three showing lower margin. Centred to right, strong colour and light vertical "A10" cancels. Very scarce multiple.	£250
23001	UNION-ISLAND <u>with rare "A" code</u> /1 SP 30, two good/fine strikes tying KGV 1d red (SG.132a) to cover addressed "Messages of the Love of God", St. Louis, Missouri. Insignificant water stains at base, this is currently the only known commercial cover with this datestamp.	£300
24863	GEORGETOWN */AP 28 30, very fine on KGV 3d deep blue PSRE (H&G5c) with added KGV ½d green, 2d grey to Agence Beralдини in Nice, France. Attractive commercial use.	£80
23109	GEORGETOWN */24 OC 42, fine cds on KG6 2d defin. (SG.152) cover to R. Boyd Cooper in Bath, Somerset with OPENED BY EXAMINER 5412 label at left. Attractive.	£40

Stock	TOBAGO	Price
29777	1810 Indenture between Wightman and Robley, Anderson, Napier, Charles Gray conveying five named Negro slaves. Two foolscap pages of legible text, usual ink penetration.	£85
24997	1889 QV 1d carmine (SG.21ab), fresh mint clearly showing "slash" flaw repaired. Cat.£55	£28

Stock	TRINIDAD	Price
27636	1844 courtesy prepaid 1/- entire (printed text) to Scotland with fair TRINIDAD FE 3 1844 dbl-arc top flap plus fine boxed PORT GLASGOW arrival with London Paid transit above address.	£48
28001	1d lake (SG.69) neatly tied La Brea "20", b/s 20/NO 4 1865 on local wrapper (part back) to James Driggs, POS. Small faults. Ex Marriott.	£240
25464	POST OFFICE/(Arms)/SAN FERNANDO seal, very fine central upr. strike on horiz. pair (1d) scarlet (SG.69a). Rare as such.	£100

Stock	TURKS & CAICOS ISLANDS	Price
24122	1912 OHMS reg. cover to Army & Navy Co-op in London with 31 x ¼d red Cactus on face. Appears complete, one stamp a little damaged.	£150
23067	1941 cover to W.J. Clarke in Toronto with KG6 3d Coronation tied Grand Turk A/Oc 11 41 d/ring. At left very fine handstruck black str. line "OPENED BY CENSOR" (65 x 3mm) in serifed capital letters (McCann Type CM4, three examples recorded).	£200
23121	1944 OHMS to F.B. Buffham, Racine, Wisc. with OFFICIAL PAID cds dated */NO 20 44 and octagonal (Crown)/PASSED/D/43 h/stamp (McCann CM3) both in black ink.	£40

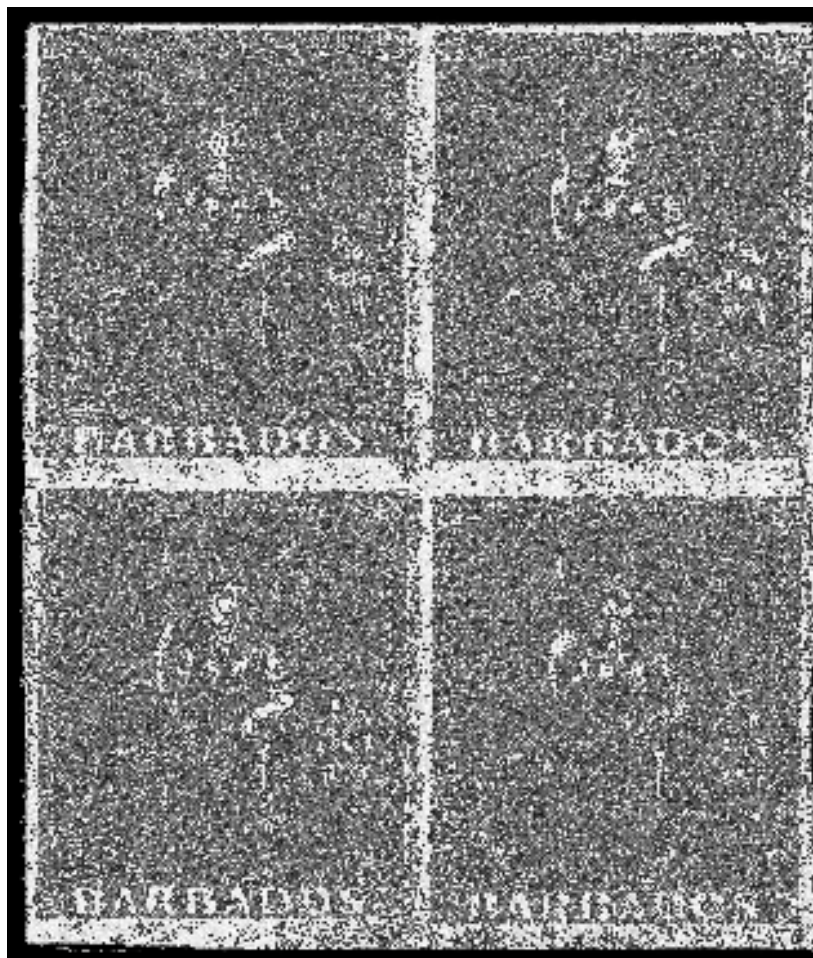
Stock	VIRGIN ISLANDS	Price
24880	1796 entire headed "Tortola July 29th 1796" to Messrs. Imlay & Suthite in Philadelphia from James Imlay having arrived after a pleasant passage of 18 days to find "the business in a bad situation". Clean condition, no markings as carried privately.	£200
26215	1927 cover to Herts. with KGV 2½d dull orange (SG 94) tied Tortola A/MR 1 27 cds.	£20

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BARBADOS

BRITANNIA BISECTS

BY PETER LONGMUIR

In this second article which reviews the Britannia perforated bisects it is first necessary to make some amendments to the listings in the introduction to the first article. There is now considerable doubt over the existence of any perforated bisects on cover, notwithstanding their S.G. catalogue status, so that the entries in the left hand column of SG 19a, 24a, 52a, and 73a are likely to be incorrect. Furthermore, the only known example of SG 83a, in the Royal Collection, is on a small piece of wrapper, not on cover, as stated previously.

My research into the perforated bisects, principally through examining auction catalogues since 1947, has revealed no examples on cover, with the exception of SG 66 (but see below). Nor are there any examples on cover in either the Royal or Tapling collections.



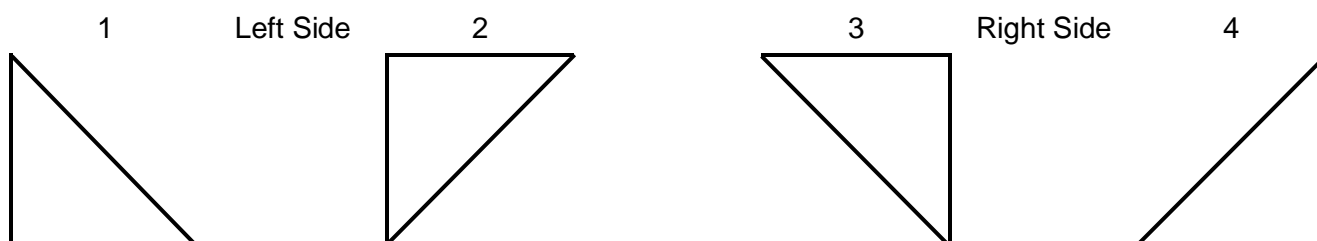
The existence of examples of 1d bisected stamps should have resulted only from a shortage of ½d stamps, Barbados having been the first British colony to introduce a ½d postage rate and to issue a stamp of that value. Single ½d stamps were intended initially to cover the postal costs of printed newspapers published outside Barbados, local papers being sent within the Island post-free under the 1851 Postal Act. However, this was changed to a ½d charge under the 1854 Act, which remained in force until the 1896 Act when the rate for newspapers posted at the GPO for delivery within the Island was reduced to ¼d for a weight not exceeding 2 ozs.

It follows from this that the authorised usage of the ½d, and therefore the bisected 1d, was solely for local newspapers sent within the Island. Whilst some commentators have suggested that the invoice totals for the printed supplies of the ½d appeared rather high for their use on newspapers alone, this was not a view shared by Sir Edward Bacon. Indeed, he went out of his way to explain that it was not at all surprising if the stock of ½d stamps had been exhausted "at that time" (April 1863) as no supplies of this value had been sent out since January 1861. [The Stamps of Barbados, by Bacon and Napier, page 40] Further shortages of the ½d stamps arose again later prior to the delivery of fresh supplies.

Stanley Gibbons first made listings of Barbados bisected stamps in their 1917 catalogues, with individual prices. It was in 1962 that they then added "on cover" to their entries, (without price alterations from the previous year), probably resulting from a ruling from one of the Expert Committees. However, the SG Catalogue Editor has accepted that the cover references are probably misleading, and unless anyone can provide evidence of a perforated bisected stamp on cover, the present listings will need to be altered in the next 1840-1952 volume, possibly showing them instead as "used on piece".

With regard to the cover bearing a bisected 1874 1d deep blue, SG66, (referred to above), some doubt arises over its authenticity. This local cover, sent to the parish of St James, was illustrated in Bulletin 179 of December 1998. However, apart from its "non -authorised" use, it has only a bootheel cancel and the lack of any date-stamp is an adverse factor. It is not surprising that S.G. make no present reference to a bisected SG 66.

Listed below are details of 70 perforated bisects between SG 14 and 83a on dated or undated pieces. For identification purposes, I have numbered the four shapes of diagonal bisects as follows:-



1 Pin Perf 14 1d Pale Blue SG 14 (bisected – not in SG catalogue)Undated piece

Diagonal right 4

The only recorded example on small piece and signed by Godden.

R Lowe	May 1947	Illustrated lot 171	£14
--------	----------	---------------------	-----

2 Pin Perf 14 1d Deep Blue SG 15 (bisected -- see SG catalogue footnote)Undated piece

1 Diagonal left 2

Trifle age stained and two small perf defects BPA cert 1953

Hurlock	June 1958	Illustrated lot 173	\$ 48
Lickfold	Feb 1962	Illustrated lot 84	£ 48

Purchased by the author at Phillips in April 1998 as part of lot 431. According to Bayley (page 31) only two examples are known, the other (diagonal right 4) being in a famous collection. Both are illustrated on page 34 of his book.

N.B. Please note that none of these examples appear to come from newspaper pieces, although they might be from wrappers

3 Clean Cut Perf 14 to 16 1 d Blue SG 19aUndated pieces

1 Diagonal left 1 RPS cert 1956

Used on piece of newspaper (?Churchman Publications) to Revd. G. Frederick, Rowans, St George.

R Lowe	Jan 1986	Illustrated lot 2048	£ 194
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2 Diagonal right 3

Bisected on small piece, with early type C1 cancel

Phillips	Nov 2001	Lot 184	£ 80
----------	----------	---------	------

Mistakenly described as SG 52a, and purchased by the author

3 Diagonal right 3

Bisect affixed below whole 1d stamp, with part address St Lucys shown

Pennymead	Feb 1986	Illustrated lot 91	£ 87
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4 1861-70 Rough Perf 14 to 16 1d Blue - SG 24a

Although Bacon mentions shortages of ½d stamps in April 1863 and also November 1866, the earliest dated example of the 1d bisected shown below is November 1863, with one example as late as January 1869.

A Dated Pieces

1 NO 20 1863 Royal Collection

Bisect (? Left Diagonal 2) used with a whole 1d stamp on part forwarded newspaper, previously franked by ½d green, visible underneath the whole 1d stamp - with parish cancel 5 in second postmark and on stamps. Obscure address to Fosters, St ? .



3.1

2 DE 1 1863 Diagonal left 2

Bisect cancelled 5 on large piece of newspaper (Barbados Agricultural Reporter) with Barbados parish cancel 4 (re-addressed from addressee in St John).

C Henry
Harmers

April 1961
Jan 1971

Illustrated lot 285
Illustrated lot 102

US\$ 105
£ 75

3 NO 5 1866 Diagonal left 2

Bisect used with whole 1d stamp, both with inverted bootheel 1 cancels, together with an E2 date stamp, on a small piece, whole stamp slightly creased and the whole piece a little grease stained.

R Lowe Urwick

Oct 1964

Illustrated lot 183

£ 16 10/-

4 SEPT 4 1867 Vertical left bisect

Very well tied by bootheel cancel to large piece of newspaper (Barbados Agricultural Reporter No 71) also bearing an E2 date stamp, addressed to St Michael.

Harmers N York

Nov 1964

Lot 49

\$ 75

5 FE 14 18** Diagonal right 4

Used on a small piece with an E2 date stamp cancelling the stamp.

R Lowe Shilstone

June 1977

Illustrated lot 1124

£ 40

** Described as 1862, but the E2 datestamp when used to cancel the stamp is unknown prior to Feb 1872 (see 5A1) and on cover only from 1863, following its dispatch from London in May 1863.



4A5

RPS cert 1958

6 (JANUARY 1869) Diagonal left 1

Tied by a bootheel cancel to piece of local newspaper (Barbados Agricultural Reporter) which is dated JA 29 1869.

Harmers

June 1970

Illustrated lot 1083

£ 67 10/-

B Undated pieces

1 Diagonal left 2

BPA cert 21991

Tied by C1 cancel to piece of newspaper, with part A7 cancel also visible.

R Lowe
Hurlock
Lickfold

May 1947
June 1959
Feb 1962

illustrated lot 258
illustrated lot 87
illustrated lot 122

£ 13.10/-
£ 33
£ 34

2 Diagonal left 2 BPA cert 1951

Bisect joined to a whole 1d stamp tied by a Bootheel cancel to a piece of Times newspaper.

R Lowe	May 1947	illustrated lot 257	£ 25
Harmers	Oct 1990	Lot 581	part of collection
Pennymead	Feb 1992	illustrated lot 129	£ 125

See also colour illustration in Bayley's book (Plate V }

3 Diagonal right 3

Bisect with C1 cancel on small piece, faint staining.

Phillips	Nov 1987	illustrated lot 89	£55
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4 * Diagonal left 1

Bisect used on piece of newspaper, together with an 1852-55 1d stamp cancelled 7.

R Lowe	June 1951	illustrated lot	£17. 10/-
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* Previously listed as an imperf bisect no 43 in my first article.

5 Vertical left bisect in private hands

Tied with a C1 cancel to cover page from issue of PUNCH, which is dated 2 Nov 1861, re-addressed to W Jordan, Newstead, St Peter.

Colonial	Mar 1982	Lot 274	US \$ 650
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6 Diagonal left 2

Bisect alongside whole 1d stamp, both tied by a single Bootheel 1 cancel on a small piece of newspaper, with capital letters TE showing

Harmers N York	Jan 1963	illustrated lot 638	US \$ 70
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7 Diagonal left 2

Bisect alongside single 1d stamp tied to piece with two C1 cancels

Harmers N York	Oct 1968	illustrated lot 168	US \$ 50
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8 Diagonal (No illustration)

Bisect used on piece with bootheel cancel, most perfs clipped, otherwise fine

Harmers N York	Jan 1963	Lot 637	US\$ 17
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9 Diagonal left 1 BPA cert

Used on small piece, well tied with Bootheel 1 cancel

Harmers	Sept 1961	illustrated lot 115	£ 50
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10 Diagonal right 3 BPA cert 40087

Used on small piece, with possible Bootheel 11 cancel

Pennymead	May 1986	illustrated lot 192	£ 80
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11 Vertical left bisect

Used on small piece, well tied with C 1 cancel

Pennymead	Sept 1985	illustrated lot 78	£ 36
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12 (No illustration)

Beautifully tied to large piece of newspaper, very fine and rare

C Henry	Dec 1961	Lot 234	US\$ 135
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13/14 (No illustrations)

Collection of 1861--70 stamps includes two 1d bisects on small pieces, one with a BPA cert 1960.

Harmers Benwell	April 1985	Lot 2214	
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5 1872 Wmk Small Star Clean Cut Perf 14½ – 15½ 1d Blue SG 52aA Dated pieces

1 Feb 24 1872 Diagonal right 3 BPA cert
Used with E2 cancel on a fragment

Hackmey April 1986 illustrated lot 10212 £ 120

2 Oct 1873 Diagonal left 1 Royal Collection
Used on a small piece with E2 cancel

3 Oct 1 1873 Diagonal right 3 Tapling Collection
Used on a small piece with E2 cancel

B Undated piece

1 Diagonal right 3 Held in private hands
Used on small piece with Bootheel 1 cancel. Some red line marking

6 1874 Wmk Large Star Perf 14 1d Deep Blue SG 66 (bisected)

(not catalogued by S.G.)

COVER (see comments above)

1 Diagonal right 3 BPA cert 1948
Tied by Bootheel cancel to local cover to St James. Undated

R Lowe	May 1947	illustrated lot 426	£ 22
Benwell	April 1985	lot 2236	£352
Hackmey	April 1986	illustrated lot 10253	£320

A Dated pieces

1 May 15 1875 Royal Collection
Horizontal lower half bisect on part wrapper, with E2 postmark

2 May 15 1875 RPS cent 1959
Horizontal lower half bisect on large piece addressed to T.P. Foster, St George's, with E2 postmark

Hurlock	May 1960	illustrated lot 102	£ 63
Spink	Oct 1998	illustrated lot 599	£480



6A2

3 May 15 1875

Horizontal lower half bisect used on a small piece, tied by an A7 cancel

BWI Auctions

Nov 1984

Lot 155

£ 165

4 May 15 1875

BPA cert 1948

Horizontal lower half bisect used on a small piece, tied by an E2 postmark

R Lowe

July 1948

Lot 222

£ 40

N.B. The dates of May 15 1875 may reflect a shortage of the ½d stamps, arising from the January order for the "new" ½d stamps from De La Rue not being invoiced and sent to the island until 10 March 1875 and their date of issue in Barbados unknown before 20 May 1875. However, I am uncertain of any significance of 4 examples all dated the same day.

5 June 17 1875 Diagonal left 2

Philatelic Foundation Cert 1985

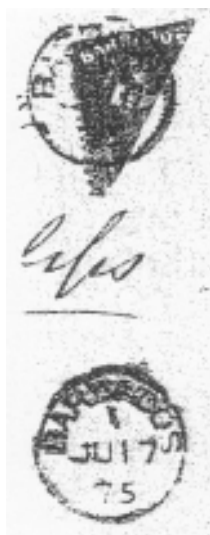
Used on piece, with two E2 cancels.

B Undated piece

1 Diagonal left 2

Royal Collection

Used on small piece of newspaper, with Bootheel parish cancel, possibly 3 or 8.



6A5



7A3

7 1875-80 1d Dull Blue Perf 14 SG 73a

A Dated Pieces

1 1 March 1877 (No illustration)

Used on a small piece, tied by a Bootheel duplex cancel

S.Gibbons Wood

Oct 1971

Lot 93

£ 36

2 3 March 1877 Diagonal left 1 (inverted)

Tied with Bootheel duplex cancel to a complete newspaper (The West Indian)

Siegel

Nov 1993

illustrated lot 1104

£ 1750

3 7 March 1877 Diagonal right 3

Tied to a large piece of newspaper (The Times) by duplex cancel. Purchased by the author in a collection

4 13 March 1877 Diagonal right 4 (inverted)

Royal Collection

Tied to a small piece of newspaper (The Times) with E2 postmark

5	14 March 1877 Diagonal right 4			
	Tied to a piece of newspaper (The West Indian) by duplex cancel			
	M Hamilton Retail	1980		£ 80
6	20 March 1877 Diagonal left 1			
	Tied to a small piece of newspaper by a Bootheel duplex cancel			
	Colonial Stamp Co	March 1984	illustrated	£ 130
7	28 March 1877 (No illustration)			Held in private hands
	Tied to a small piece with an A7 cancel. Very fine.			
	Hurlock	June 1958	Lot 470	£ 12 10/-
8	7 April 1877 Diagonal left 1			
	Tied to a small piece of newspaper by Bootheel duplex cancel			
	R Lowe	Jan 1978	illustrated lot 160	£21
	Pennymead	Sept 1998	illustrated lot 354	£55
9	22 April 1877 (No illustration)			
	Tied to newspaper fragment by Bootheel duplex cancel			
	Pennymead	Sept 1998	Lot 352	Unsold
10	11 Dec 1877 Diagonal left 1 (inverted)			
	Used, overlapping whole 1d stamp (large piece missing), well tied to small piece with Bootheel duplex cancel			
	B.W.I. Auctions No 19	April 1991	Lot 67	£ 44
11	29 Dec 1877 Diagonal left 1			BPA cert 1964
	Used on a small piece with a whole 1d tied with a Bootheel duplex cancel, also with red crayon, otherwise fine.			
	Harmers	Jan 1971	illustrated lot 184	£ 14
	Owned by the author -- purchased early 80's in a collection			
12	12 March 1878 Diagonal right 4			BPA cert
	Used with another 1d (defective) on small piece with tied E2 pmk			
	Lickfold	Feb 1962	illustrated lot 259	£ 13
13	6 May 1878 Diagonal left 2			
	Tied by Bootheel and M2 Parish 3 cancels on large part wrapper addressed to I Thomas, Sunbury, St Philip.			
	Benwell	April 1985	illustrated lot 2244	£ 220
	Hackmey	April 1986	illustrated lot 10273	£ 400
14	30 Aug 1878 Diagonal left 2			Royal Collection
	Used together with a whole 1d stamp on piece			
15	30 Sept 1878 Diagonal left 1			
	Used with a whole 1d on piece tied by duplex cancel. Fine			
	Harmers N.Y.	Oct 1968	Lot 249	US\$ 75
16	30 Nov 1878 Diagonal left 1 (inverted)			
	Used with a whole 1d stamp on a small piece tied by duplex cancel			
	Pennymead	Sept 1985	illustrated lot 102	£ 105

N.B. Those examples dated above between 1 March and 22 April 1877 will have resulted from a shortage of the ½d stamps arising from a low amount (37,680) ordered in March 1876 and the January 1877 order for 85,800 stamps, which was only invoiced and sent to the Island on 7 March, and therefore preceded the actual issue in Barbados of the new supplies. Less easy to explain is why there are six examples between Dec 1877 and Nov 1878 all attracting a postage rate of 1½d. Possibly the newspapers weighed more than 4 ozs, thus attracting treble the rate of ½d per 2 ozs.

B Undated pieces

Although I have identified 16 separate examples (including 1 from the Tapling collection), there seems little benefit in listing all these below. There is always a risk that a list of undated examples, many of which are described only as "used on piece" will include some duplication. [However, my list is available on request]. In addition, care is needed over possible non-genuine use, to which Bacon drew attention "unlike some of the half - stamps of recent years, merely obtained for the benefit of collectors". [Barbados, Preliminary Notes, page 12, in "The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Stamps of the British Colonies in the West Indies The Philatelic Society, London, 1891"]

8 1875-80 1/- Dull Mauve Perf 14 SG 83a

As mentioned above, the example in the Royal Collection dated 18 Jan 1880 is not on cover, as previously stated in the introduction to my first article. It is on a small piece of wrapper, and is the only known example.

Summary

Excluding the 9 examples in the Royal and Tapling collections, shown below is a summary of the 1d perforated bisected stamps which I have outlined above. Inevitably, with Auction catalogues as my main sources, there is room for further additions, particularly for examples of SG 24a and 73a, where the current practice of Auctioneers is to include them in Collections unless they have sufficient merit to justify a separate lot description.

		Dated pieces	Undated pieces	"Cover"
1	SG 14		1	
2	SG 15		2	
3	SG 19a		3	
4	SG 24a	5	14	
5	SG 52a	1	1	
6	SG 66	4		1
7	SG 73a	14	15	
8	SG 83a			
	Total	24	36	1

The existence of the perforated bisects and therefore their supply is much more varied than is the case with the earlier imperforate examples, with copies of SG 19a, 52a and 66 (bisected) being much more difficult to find than SG24a and SG73a.

It is suggested that perforated bisects used on a piece of identifiable newspaper and also with a clear date stamp cancel, when appropriate, should command a substantial premium over those examples to be found on only undated pieces, many of which sell currently for no more than £50.

It will be interesting to see how S Gibbons re-list the perforated bisects, together with a revised price structure, in their 2003-04 catalogue. Renewed thanks to Charles Freeland for his assistance with the text, and for access to his own photocopies of Britannia Bisects.

BRITISH GUIANA

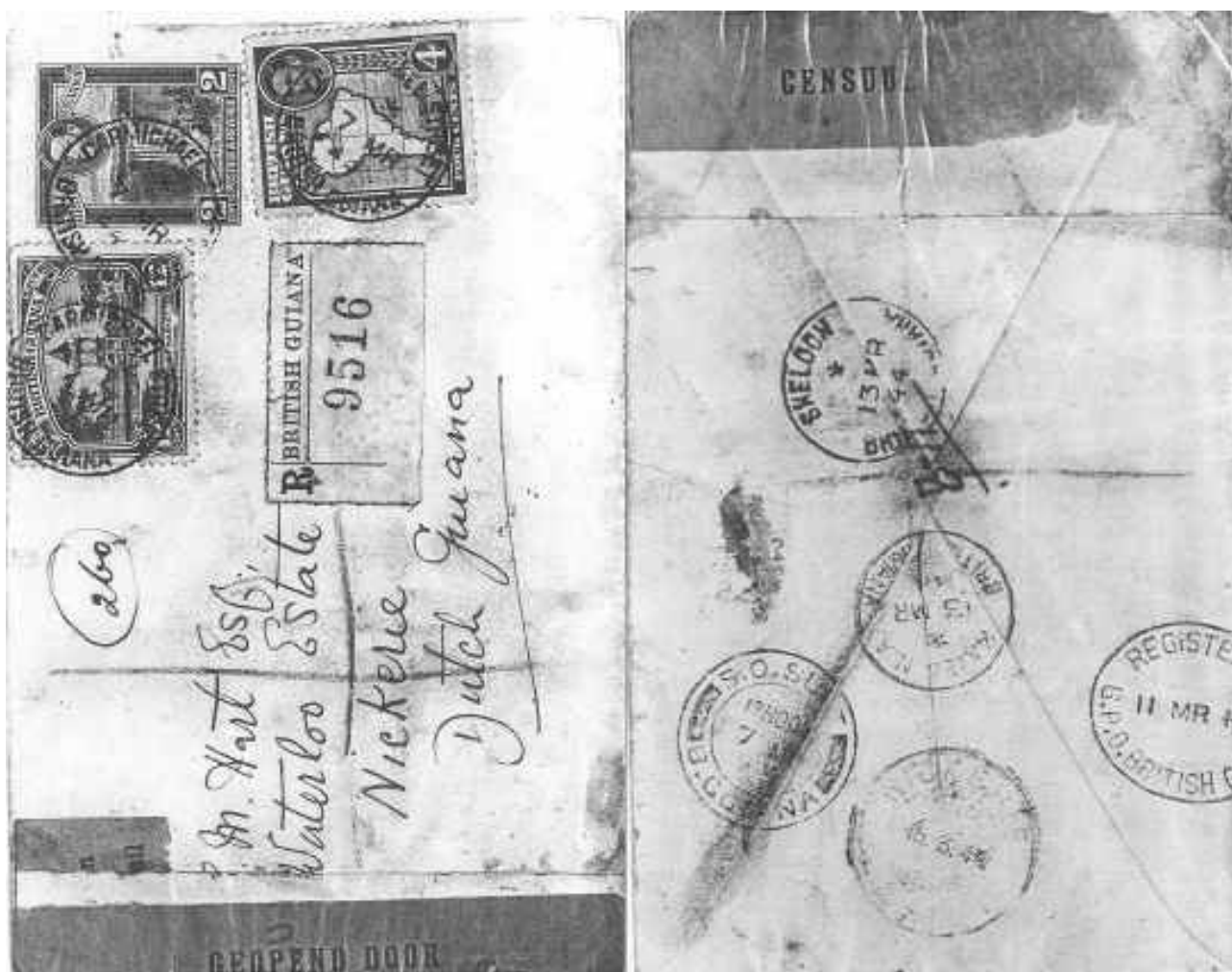
NICKERIE POLICE BOAT – FURTHER NOTES

BY GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Since my brief article in the March 2003 bulletin I have found three more items which show the existence of some form of postal service across the Corentyne River between Nickerie in Suriname and Skeldon in British Guiana well after the date of closure assumed by Townsend and Howe ("T&H"). The first and last of these were already in my collection (but filed under different classifications!):

- a postal stationary envelope posted to Rotterdam at Paramaribo on 16 March 1922. The front of the envelope is marked via Demerara but rather than taking the ocean route it arrived in Georgetown on the 18 March via Nickerie, Skeldon and New Amsterdam the previous day,
- a postal stationary card posted at Nickerie on 24 March 1930 to Boston, USA and back stamped Skeldon on the same day, New Amsterdam the following day and Georgetown the next day;
- a registered envelope posted at Carmichael Street on 7 March 1944 to Nickerie and backstamped SO Supt the same day, Registered GPO on 11 March, Mails NA and Skeldon on 13 March and Nickerie on arrival on 16 March (see illustration).

For completeness I have also acquired an example of mail taking the earlier route via Benab. This postal stationary card was posted at Georgetown on 19 March 1891 to Nickerie and, following the Gazette Notice mentioned in T&H, is marked Via Benab. It is backstamped New Amsterdam on 28 March, Benab on 31 March and arrived in Nieuw Nickerie on 1 April.



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ST CHRISTOPHER**SG 13B & SG R3****BY MICHAEL MEDLICOTT**

Four of the five revenue overprints issued in 1885 (according to Gibbons) or 1886 (according to Morley) were authorised for postal use and are listed in Gibbons Part I as SG R 3-6. Only the five shillings ochre was withheld from postal use.

They were clearly special printings, using head plate 1 and current number 40; the duty plates for the one penny, sixpence and one shilling values were already in use in a setting of 5 x 4 for the postage stamps, but the threepence and five shilling values were new to St. Christopher. For these two 'new' values, it is quite possible that the Tobago duty plate was used, since the five shillings value show characteristics common to both colonies.

If the one penny duty plate is indeed common to both the contemporary postage (SG 12/13) and revenue (SG R3) issues, we should be searching for SG 13b ("Distorted E" variety) at position 2/1 in the sheet on the revenue stamp as well.

The result of the search is interesting. I have three complete unused sheets of SG R3.

1. A sheet without selvedge in a rosy shade. The overprint shows no sign in position 1/2 of the damaged crossbar to the 'T' in 'SAINT'; this damage was evidently progressive and not worthy of repair, and the sheet is therefore an early printing. There is no sign in position 2/1 of damage to the 'E' of 'ONE' in the duty plate.
2. A sheet with selvedge in a brighter shade. The overprint show the damaged crossbar to 'T' in 'SAINT'; presumably a later printing. There is a hint - no more - of distortion to the 'E' of 'ONE' in the duty plate in position 2/1.
3. A sheet with selvedge in a deep bright shade. The overprint shows the damaged crossbar to 'T' in 'SAINT'. The 'E' in 'ONE' is distorted as illustrated in SG Part I for SG 13b.

My conclusion is that the distorted 'E' occurs only on one or more later printings of the one penny, and is therefore a good deal scarcer than the catalogue multiple (SG13b = 15 x SG13) suggests, both for the postage and for the postal fiscal stamp. The latter (SG R3) also deserves catalogue status with distorted 'E'; I will correspond with Gibbons' editor subject to any comments BWISC members may have to offer.



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AUCTION UPDATE**BY CHARLES FREELAND**

It has been a very quiet few months for the BWI collector, with little specialised material on the market. The Ken Griffiths sale of Boer War, the Bennett auction of Gough postage dues and the March London Stamp Exchange auction each contained a few nice BWI pieces but they were overall of limited interest for our members. As we went to press, Ed Druce's gold medal collection of Grenada postal stationery was being re-offered by Leski, the first sale in October having flopped because reserves were too high. This time, with the reserves halved, some good archive material was available at reasonable prices. The only other event of substance, the Potter Jamaica at Cavendish, falls outside my interest but our esteemed editor was present and will give you his insider view.

Cavendish West Indies 11 April 2003

This sale, featuring the Ian Potter collection of Jamaica was well attended by the usual gaggle of Jamaican collectors and Dealers. I would expect Ian to be pretty satisfied with the results, of his 163 lots, over 90% were sold with realisations 22% over estimate on the lots sold.

Top price was achieved for the beautiful Falmouth / SHIP LETTER at £1300 (plus premium), 50% above estimate and the price paid by Ian at the Swarbrick auction. The unique circular Ship Letter / Jamaica also reached £1000 but surprisingly the Montego Bay / SHIP LETTER and the Saint Anns Bay / SHIP LETTER failed to sell.

The GB Used in Jamaica sold strongly with all but one of the 8 lots exceeding estimate. The 1858 Goshen quad rate packet letter sold for over double estimate at £650, this was four times the price at the Swarbrick sale.

Surprisingly, Ian's obliterator cancellations, offered in 26 lots, which usually are popular, tended to provide little competition.

Forthcoming events

The months ahead are looking very exciting with at least three mega-events. First, we are promised Dan Walker's large gold Grenada plus Peter McCann's gold Virgin Islands postal history in the same Shreve auction on 27 June. The sale will be in New York but there will be viewing in London on 19 and 20 June at the Four Seasons hotel in Mayfair. I understand the Shreve auction will contain the cream of these two collections but the more specialised collector material will be consigned to David Druett for a Pennymead auction in October (for viewing in Leamington).

The second event is the one I foreshadowed in my last column, although the details unfortunately arrived a day or so after we went to press, namely the Bill Frazer collection at Spink. This is a magnificent assembly of Commonwealth material, as I can testify having been privileged to take a look at some of it already. The selection of rarities containing many choice BWI items will be over by the time you read this, as will the sale of the shop stock on 24 April. The rarities sale was a big success, with the Turks imperf between pair going for £16,000 and the Caymans invert £32,000. But there are two big Frazer dates to come, the first on 30 October when the bulk of the British Commonwealth will be offered and the second on 22 January 2004 that is reserved for his exceptional collections of Sudan and Virgin Islands. Frazer had two Imperials absolutely crammed with good quality stamps. Many of them are essentially straight collections, but the condition is very fresh and choice, having presumably been cherry-picked from material that passed through his hands as a major dealer in empire material. There are four BWI countries that are more specialised, apart from the Virgin Islands. These are all countries with serious provisionals, a field which obviously took his fancy. Br Guiana is the first, featuring several large blocks of provisionals, plus an imperf between of the 1c official. This is the only country apart from Virgin Is where there is a good range of covers, again several showing provisional usage but including a couple of cotton-reels. The other countries are St Christopher, Tobago and Turks Islands, and in the first two cases the provisionals are virtually complete. St Christopher also has several rare blocks including three of the 6d olive-brown. Many of the rare stamps in the collection can be traced back to sales in the 1960s, especially the Burrus sales.

However, what our true afficianados will be clammering for are the Virgin Islands and this truly is a definitive collection of the stamps and stamped covers. The preadhesives include a "Paid to England" and a first type straight-line mark, but no early use of the crowned circle and none of the rare later markings. However, the stamps and proofs are truly outstanding, containing dozens of

unique pieces, including several sheets of 1d green printings. These were based on the Burrus collection that Bill Frazer bought intact in 1963, but there is plenty of other splendid material from other sources. And, as the 1963 catalogue tells us, Burrus had managed to track down several pre-1890 stamped covers, to which Frazer has been able to add a number. There are also two albums crammed with more modern covers and stationery.

The final sale of special interest, programmed for 29 October, will be the Baron Stig Leuhausen Bermuda. This has been delayed for some years while the Swedish and Bermuda authorities argued over probate. The Bermuda government wanted to buy some of the best items for the state, but not surprisingly decided their tax-payers might not approve. I know little about the collection except that it is a comprehensive one containing at least two Perots and many rare items ex the Tucker and Ulrich collections. It is sure to be the highlight of the year for our keen Bermuda fraternity.

In addition, there will be a sentimental event for our many St Vincent fans. As members may know, Steve Sharp's collection was sold intact but the buyer has decided to sell the material he does not need at Bonhams on 10-1 September. This will apparently include cancellations, used multiples, sheets, and plating studies.

Finally, there has been an interesting piece of news for those who follow the London auction scene. In a recent column I speculated that Grosvenor was a firm with a future but commented on their cramped quarters - now we hear that they are moving to 399-401 Strand, alongside the most famous address in philately, which will also become the site of their future auctions. This should ensure further development of a friendly and knowledgeable auction house. Sadly, while the latest catalogue has some nice WI lots, they bear very stiff estimates - well, they have to pay for their fancy premises somehow....

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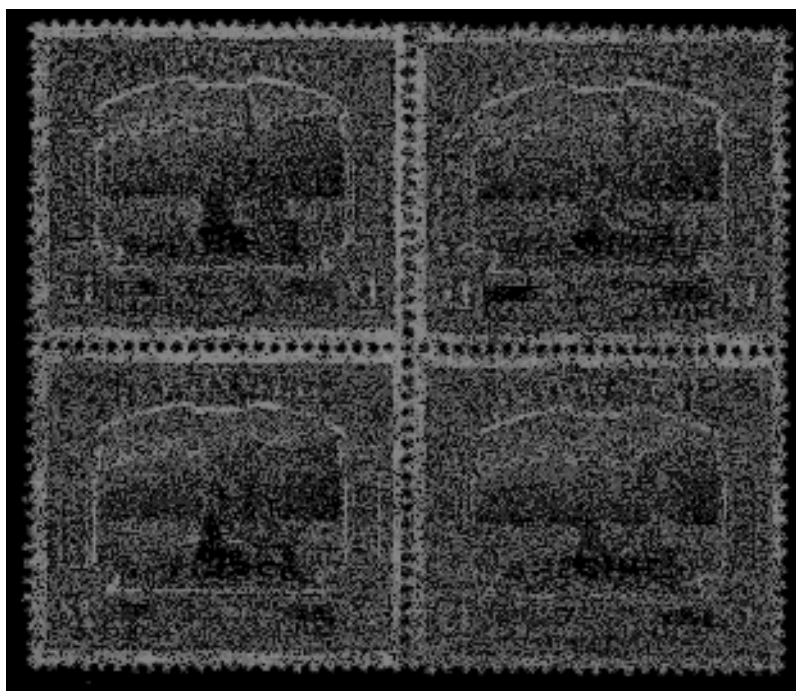
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